(d) what steps Government propose to take to hold the elections to the Cantonment Boards which are overdue?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Central Government has, in pursuance of the proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of the Cantonment Act, 1924, have extended the term of office of elected members of 51 Cantonment Boards up to 31st December, 2002 as it is intended to hold the elections for those Cantonment Boards under the new Act which is in the process of being formulated. Elections for 10 Cantonment Boards are not yet due. One Cantonment Board stand varied and its terms has been extended up to February, 2003.

Missile tests conducted by India

†769. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of missile tests conducted by Government from January, 2002 till date;

(b) the amount spent on each of the said missile tests alongwith its achievements;

(c) by when the said missiles are likely to be inducted in the Indian Navy;

(d) whether Government propose to conduct more missile tests keeping in view Pakistan's missile programme; and

(e) if so, the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Seven development flight trials have been carried out since January, 2002 which includes two flight tests of Naval version of Trishul, one of BrahMos, one of Akash, two of Nag and one of Agni-1.

(b) One laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation is dedicated for conducting flight testing of missiles. In addition a large number of scientists and personnel from other laboratories who have developed the missile and support system are involved in the testing. It has not been the practice to apportion the different costs of testing missiles. Most of the mission objectives set for each flight tests were achieved.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Development work of Trishul, Akash and Nag Missile Systems is expected to be completed by December, 2003 and December, 2004 respectively after which missiles will be ready for User's trial, production and induction. Development work of Agni-1 has been completed and missile is going to be tested once more before getting into production and induction. BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is likely to enter production phase by end of 2003 and it will be inducted by 2004.

(d) and (e) Design, development and flight test of missile system is a continuous process based on strategic requirements of Indian Armed Forces and security requirements of Nation.

Development of light aircraft capable of being accommodated on small aircraft carrier

770. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation are working on a light aircraft which can be accommodated on a small aircraft carrier;

(b) if so, whether a tentative time frame for its production has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Project Defination Phase (PDP) and Pre Project Phase (PPP) for developing Naval Variant of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been completed. LCA (Navy) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) proposal is under consideration of Government which include:

(i) Design, development, building and ground testing of two aircraft and a structural test specimen.

(ii) Carrying out flight testing of approximately 400 hours towards operational clearance.